

"The Wedding Cake House"
(Bourne, George W., House)
104 Summer Street (State Rte. 35)
Kennebunk
York County
Maine

HABS No. ME-74

HABS
ME
16-KEN,
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
801 - 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

" THE WEDDING CAKE HOUSE" (Bourne, George W., House)

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Location: 104 Summer Street (State Rte. 35), north side,
approximately 1.2 miles east of Main Street
(U.S. Rte. 1), Kennebunk, York County, Maine.

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Harold I. Lord

Present Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Harold I. Lord

Present Use: Residence

Statement of
Significance: A good standard brick house in the late Federal
style lavishly embellished twenty-nine years after
its erection with notable wooden Gothic Revival trim.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Property was owned by George W. Bourne at least as early as 1826 and has descended in the Bourne family to the present owner, Harold I. Lord, whose mother was a Bourne.
2. Date of erection: 1826.
3. Architect: Not known. Trim was designed and executed by George W. Bourne.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Alterations and additions: Gothic Revival trim was added in 1855 to match slightly earlier attached barn. Front entrance porch was removed before August, 1965. Fenestration of rear ell and rear of barn has been somewhat altered. Asphalt shingles have replaced original roofing. Original front fence was replaced circa 1962.
6. Important old views: Vignette on York County map published by J. L. Smith & Co. in 1856 shows house with trim completed.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

House was built for George W. Bourne, shipbuilder in partnership with Henry Kingsbury at Kennebunk River shipyard which Bourne's father had bought from Theodore Lyman.

C. Sources of Information:

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1. Primary and unpublished sources; Interviews, 1967, 1968, 1969, with Mrs. Donald D. Kimball, Curator, The Brick Store Museum, Kennebunk, Maine.
2. Secondary and published sources:
 - "Map of York County, Maine", J. C. Chace, Jr., J. L. Smith & Co., Philadelphia & Boston, 1856.
 - Edward Emerson Bourne, History of Wells and Kennebunk, Portland, B. Thurston & Co., 1875.
 - Federal Writers' Project, Maine - A Guide to 'Down East', Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1937.
 - Old Houses of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, Kennebunk, The Brick Store Museum, (1962).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Remarkably romantic fantasy expressed in wooden Gothic Revival "frosting" (from which house derives its popular name), applied to conventional late Federal style house with connected barn decorated in similar "Gothic" Manner.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair, but deteriorating.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Dimensions undetermined. Five-bay front is approximately 35'-40' wide. Main block is rectangular, two stories, with two-story rear ell. One-and-a-half story wing runs east from rear ell to connect house with two-story rectangular barn.
2. Foundations: Granite blocks.
3. Wall construction: Brick main block; rear ell, connecting wing, and barn are frame, clapboarded except for front and sides of barn and front of wing, which are sheathed in board and batten cladding.
4. Framing: Undetermined.

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5. Porches: Front entrance was sheltered by arched lattice-work metal-roofed canopy fronted by pinnacled buttresses supporting elaborate ogee arch (removed before August 1965). Small porch in northeast angle at junction of main block and rear ell has quarter hip roof above entablature supported by corner pier. HABS ME 16-KEN8.V. 1-
6. Chimneys: Paneled rectangular brick chimneys with dentil cornices and four capped flues open at sides are centered above east and west walls. Similar but unpaneled chimney straddles ell roof ridge toward north. Simple tall square brick chimney rises through lean-to roof behind ell.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Front entrance has leaded elliptical fanlight and sidelights above panels. East side door and rear door have simple rectangular transoms with vertical muntins. Connecting wing has two rectangular board and batten doors, one of which is double, on south wall. Barn has one south wall board and batten sliding door and one false door.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Palladian window is centered above front (south) entrance. Main block and ell have double-hung six-over-six-light wooden sash windows. South wall of wing and barn second floor has square latticed windows set at forth-five degree angle. Barn front gable has triangular latticed window. Main block and ell have louvered wooden shutters.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Main block has balustraded low hip roof. Ell has railed gable roof, ridge running north-south. Connecting wing has monopitch roof sloping toward north. Barn has gable roof with forty-five degree pitch, ridge running north-south. Roofs have asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Original flat, simply molded slightly projecting box cornices incorporating gutters are masked on front and sides of main block by added trim (see below).
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None

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9. Decorative features and trim: Front and sides of main block are ornamented by wooden corner buttresses, set at forty-five degree angle, with paneled offsets and crocketed pinnacles terminating in turned finials high above roofline. Two identical buttresses, set at right angle, flank central front entrance bay. Buttresses support cornices at second-floor and eaves levels. Cornices have friezes of pierced petal pattern between small paired brackets and are capped by miniature battlements. Below cornices are Tudor-arched spandrels with quatrefoil and circle-patterned fretwork and pierced pendant skirtings. Between front center buttresses are one-story-high subsidiary buttresses on second floor supporting boldly projecting cusped and crocketed trefoil-pierced ogee arch terminating in poppyhead. First-floor minor buttresses and similar arch fronting entrance porch were removed before August, 1965.

Board and batten south fronts of connecting wing and barn have similar buttresses and roof cornice without intermediate cornice or spandrels. Applied Gothic arch motifs spring from small corbels flanking buttresses. Apex of barn gable has crocketed finial and had slender spindle terminating in fish weathervane removed before August, 1965. Large rectangular cantilevered canopy over pump in front of connecting wing has pierced bargeboards and concave hip roof with turned finial.

C. Description of Interior:

Interior is not available for inspection. Old Houses of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport (see sources, above) states the following: "Inside the house a curved hall-way contains a spiral stair, whose well reaches to the roof. Every room has a fireplace. In the main parlor some of the (floor) planks are fourteen feet long and twenty-three inches wide." Aside from that, detailed information is not obtainable.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: House faces south and is set well back from road in spacious grounds. Area is protected by local preservation legislation.
2. Enclosures: Modern picket fence fronts property. For original fence demolished circa 1962, see "The Wedding Cake House" (Bourne, George W., House) Fence, Kennebunk, York County, Maine, HABS No. ME-71. 4 sheets (plan, elevations, details, 1943, 1944); gift of Edward Langley Scholarship of the American Institute of Architects.

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3. Outbuildings: Small frame clapboarded two-bay-fronted one-storied gable-roofed structure stands southeast of barn.
4. Walks: Unpaved path runs parallel with front fence.
5. Landscaping: Grounds are informally planted with large shade trees. Shrubbery is scanty.

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Prepared by Denys Peter Myers
Principal Architectural Historian
National Park Service
December 17, 1968

Addendum to:

GEORGE W. BOURNE HOUSE

(Wedding Cake House)

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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Data pages 1 through 5 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 6.

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One survey control contact print per plate; survey control
information for each pair.

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-301L * SOUTH FACADE

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-301R SOUTH FACADE

Left and right overlap: 90%

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-302L * SOUTH FACADE OF HOUSE AND BARN

LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-302R SOUTH FACADE OF HOUSE AND BARN

Left and right overlap: 95%

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LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-303L *	SE ELEVATION--ANGLED
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-303R	SE ELEVATION--ANGLED
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-304L *	EAST ELEVATION
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-304R	EAST ELEVATION
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-305L *	REAR FROM NE--ANGLED
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-305R	REAR FROM NE--ANGLED
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-306L *	REAR ELEVATION FROM NORTH
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-306R	REAR ELEVATION FROM NORTH
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-307L *	REAR FROM NW--ANGLED
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-307R	REAR FROM NW--ANGLED
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-308L *	WEST (SIDE) ELEVATION
LC-HABS-GS05-T-1736-308R	WEST (SIDE) ELEVATION
	Left and right overlap: 85%

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